



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/737,198	12/16/2003	Greg Siwak	26/1182US	5527
38790	7590	08/21/2006	EXAMINER	
THE SMALL PATENT LAW GROUP LLP 611 OLIVE STREET, SUITE1611 ST. LOUIS, MO 63101			WEAVER, SUE A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3727	

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/737,198	SIWAK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sue A. Weaver	3727

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 1996.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 3727

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 7 and 8 of the amendment, filed 6/6/06, with respect to the objection to the drawings and 112 rejections of the claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objections to the drawings and 112 rejections of the claims have been withdrawn.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

To the extent that applicant considers the spring system with the four springs of Figure 4 of the parent application to collectively define the resistance mechanism claimed in claim 1, the rejection of claim 1 based on Marks is withdrawn and a new rejection follows. However to the extent that the resistance mechanism of claim 1 is intended to read on the spring extending through the handle of Figure 4 of the current application the rejection based on Marks remains and is repeated because applicant has failed to show where there is clear support in the parent application for such an arrangement.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 15, 19-23 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pease '418 in view of Westman '016, of record.

4. Applicant's attention is invited to the discussion by Pease in Column 10 of a preferred embodiment with a weight measuring device which could comprise an electronic system where the weight on the handle is determined by strain gauges between the handle and case. The strain gauges form part of the resistance

Art Unit: 3727

mechanism. Note further a calibrated spring system to show red in a panel when the weight on the handle exceeds permitted weight. To have arranged the springs at the ends of the handle in place of the strain gauges in the manner of Westman would have been obvious. Note that Pease further teaches the use in a strap. To have further formed the strap integral with the luggage would also have been obvious in view of Westman. The use of a resetting mechanism is known in the art as admitted by applicant. Therefore the use of such would have been obvious.

5. Claims 7, 8, 11-14 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1 and 19 above, and further in view of Tan.

To have provided the indicator with lines or zones marked in colors would have been obvious in view of such teaching by Tan.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents show other weighing mechanisms.

7. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents

Art Unit: 3727

P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on _____
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Registration Number: _____

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. () _____ - _____ on _____.
(Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Registration Number: _____

Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sue A. Weaver whose telephone number is (571) 272-4548. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 5:30 to 4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor is Nathan Newhouse. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SW



SUE A. WEAVER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 3700